REMARKS

Claims 17 - 26 are pending in the present application. No additional claims fee is believed to be due.

Claim 17 has been amended to more specifically characterize the elected species of the current invention, Group IV. In the current amendment, R^1 is restricted to a hydrogen or a hydroxyl group in accordance with the elected species.

It is believed these changes do not involve any introduction of new matter. Consequently, entry of these changes is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

In addition, Applicants make of record herein the Examiner's withdrawal of the prior rejection under 35 USC § 102 based on DE3524955 and FR2567885.

Rejection Under 35 USC § 112, First Paragraph

The Office Action States that Claims 17-26 are rejected under 35 USC § 112. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 USC § 112:

> The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

In response to Examiner's rejection and comments, Applicants respectfully traverse the 35 USC § 112 rejection for the following reasons:

The group R^6 is defined and supported in the current Application. In the claims, the group R^6 is defined as selected from the group consisting of a carbocyclic group, a substituted carbocyclic group, an aromatic group, and a substituted aromatic group. In addition, the four groups that are recited for R^6 are defined on pages 3-5 of the specification. Specifically, the following definitions, for a carbocyclic group, substituted carbocyclic group, aromatic group, and substituted aromatic group are provided in the specification:

1. "Aromatic group" means a group having a monocyclic or polycyclic ring structure. Monocyclic aromatic groups contain 4 to 10 carbon atoms, preferably 4 to 7 carbon

atoms, and more preferably 4 to 6 carbon atoms in the ring. Preferred polycyclic ring structures have two or three rings. Polycyclic structures having two rings typically have 8 to 12 carbon atoms, preferably 8 to 10 carbon atoms in the rings. Polycyclic aromatic groups include groups wherein at least one, but not all, of the rings are aromatic.

2. "Substituted aromatic group" means an aromatic group wherein 1 or more of the hydrogen atoms bonded to carbon atoms in the ring have been replaced with other substituents. Preferred substituents include hydrocarbon groups such as methyl groups and heterogeneous groups including alkoxy groups such as methoxy groups. The substituents may be substituted at the ortho, meta, or para position on the ring, or any combination thereof.

3. "Carbocyclic group" means a saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon ring. Carbocyclic groups are not aromatic. Carbocyclic groups are monocyclic or polycyclic. Polycyclic carbocyclic groups can be fused, spiro, or bridged ring systems. Monocyclic carbocyclic groups contain 4 to 10 carbon atoms, preferably 4 to 7 carbon atoms, and more preferably 5 to 6 carbon atoms in the ring. Bicyclic carbocyclic groups contain 8 to 12 carbon atoms, preferably 9 to 10 carbon atoms in the rings.

4. "Substituted carbocyclic group" means a carbocyclic group wherein 1 or more hydrogen atoms bonded to carbon atoms in the ring have been replaced with other substituents. Preferred substituents include hydrocarbon groups such as alkyl groups (e.g, methyl groups) and heterogeneous groups such as alkoxy groups (e.g., methoxy groups).

In addition, several examples set forth in the specification, including Examples 30-44 as found on pages 45-52, show embodiments of the elected species of the current invention wherein the R^6 group is selected from an aromatic group, a substituted aromatic group, a carbocyclic group and a substituted carbocyclic group as claimed. Table 1 from pages 10-16 of the specification also provides several examples of R^6 as claimed in the present invention.

The Office Action also states that the R^{12} and the R^{13} substitutents are not defined in the Application. However, in independent Claim 17, upon which all remaining claims depend, part a(iii)(e) defines R^{12} and R^{13} as each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbon groups and substituted hydrocarbon groups. Additionally, the terms hydrocarbon groups and substituted hydrocarbon groups are further defined in the specification on pages 4-6. Specifically, hydrocarbon groups and substituted hydrocarbon groups are defined as follows:

1. "Hydrocarbon group" means a chain of 1 to 25 carbon atoms, preferably 1 to 12 carbon atoms, more preferably 1 to 10 carbon atoms, and most preferably 1 to 8 carbon atoms. Hydrocarbon groups may have a linear or branched chain structure. Preferred hydrocarbon groups have one or two branches, preferably 1 branch. Preferred hydrocarbon groups are saturated. Unsaturated hydrocarbon groups have one or more double bonds, one or more triple bonds, or combinations thereof. Preferred unsaturated hydrocarbon groups have one or two double bonds or one triple bond; more preferred unsaturated hydrocarbon groups have one double bond.

2. "Substituted hydrocarbon group" means a hydrocarbon group wherein 1 or more of the hydrogen atoms bonded to carbon atoms in the chain have been replaced with other substituents. Preferred substituents include monovalent aromatic groups, monovalent substituted aromatic groups, monovalent hydrocarbon groups including alkyl groups such as methyl groups, monovalent substituted hydrocarbon groups such as benzyl, and monovalent heterogeneous groups including alkoxy groups such as methoxy groups.

The Office Action states that Applicants have not provided guidance as to what the R^6, R^{12} and R^{13} substituents or groups can be. For the foregoing reasons Applicants submit that the R^6, R^{12} and R^{13} groups are clearly defined in the specification and claims of the current invention. Applicants respectfully traverse the 35 USC § 112 rejection.

Undue Experimentation

On the same grounds as the 35 USC § 112 the Office Action states that an undue amount of experimentation would be required to use Applicants invention. However this point is moot since it was based on the grounds that substituents and groups are not defined in the Application and Applicants have respectfully traversed these grounds for rejection above. In addition, the factors set forth in *In re Wands*, 858 F.2d 731, 737 (Fed. Cir. 1988) utilized to determine what consititues undue expermimentation have not been specifically challenged by the Examiner and these factors are not violated by the disclosure of the current invention. Applicants respectfully submit that the current invention does not require undue experimentation in view of the provided definitions of the various substituent groups recited herein, as well as the factors set forth by the Federal Circuit.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, it is requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection under 35 USC § 112. Early and favorable action in the case is respectfully requested.

Applicants have made an earnest effort to place their application in proper form and to distinguish the invention as now claimed from the applied references. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application, entry of the amendments presented herein, and allowance of Claims 17-26.

Respectfully submitted,
Degenhardt *et al.*

By _____

Tahira Jayasuriya
Registration No. 50,793
8700 Mason-Montgomery Road
Mason, OH 45040
Tel: (513) 622-0291
Fax: (513) 622-3300

November 19, 2003
Customer No. 27752

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